From: Neils Christoffersen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 2:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm writing to voice my concern about the Microsoft Settlement.

Let me give you a little background about myself first. I'm currently a Senior pursuing a B.S. in Computer Science at a university in South Dakota. I am also employed at a local dot-com company, where I design and develop applications for the web.

The activities of MS in recent years is extremely disturbing to me and my colleagues. The company has repeatedly taken action to force smaller companies out of their respected markets. The latest turn of events came when MS bought many of SGI's 3D patents. Big deal you say. Well, this basically allows them to lock up these technologies, not licensing them to hardware companies that don't agree with MS. This could spell bad news for any company who sells non-DirectX products.

Of even more concern is the continually lack of security in Microsoft's products. The first that comes to mind is Internet Information Services (IIS). Since it's initial release, IIS has had several huge security flaws, and even more minor ones. Last I checked they were averaging about 2 new bugs being discovered every month. These bugs range from ones that allow web users to see the (proprietary) code behind a web site [code that could contain sensitive information, such as passwords, code which should not be seen by the public] to one that allowed IIS to become infected with a virus, and constantly search for new victims. The only way to avoid these security faults now is to constantly keep up with updates released by Microsoft.

Now, I only maintain a couple of machines with MS software installed on them, and it's a pain to keep up on the latest patches and fixes. I can't imagine hosting a data center with potentially thousands of computers and having to continually update them.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!

I ask you, no, beg you, to not give Microsoft another slap on the wrist. A fine is nothing to this company.

Thanks for your time.

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